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HEREFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF HEREFORD,

FOR THE YEAR 1917.

BY

D. DRYBROUGH GOLD, M.D., C.M., D.P.H.,

County Medical Officer of Health.

HEREFORD:

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1918.

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**To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Housing Committee
of the Hereford County Council.**

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Tenth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Administrative County.

The Reports of the District Medical Officers of Health and their Deputies are again much curtailed. Several of them, indeed, contain the minimum of information, and most of them were very late in being issued.

This Report, therefore, only deals with essential points, and with a statement of the work directly undertaken by the County Authority.

The birth-rate is the lowest recorded, being 14.7 per 1,000 persons living. This figure is 2.9 per 1,000 lower than last year's County rate.

The crude death-rate of the County is 15.6 per 1,000 living. This figure is 1.2 per 1,000 higher than that for England and Wales, and .4 per 1,000 lower than the County rate of last year.

The infantile mortality rate is 75 per 1,000 births, against 83 for last year, and 97 for England and Wales.

The death-rate from all Tubercular Diseases (1.22 per 1,000 living) is slightly lower than that of last year. The Phthisis death-rate, on the other hand, is slightly higher, viz., 1.03 per 1,000 living.

The Cancer death-rate (1.25 per 1,000 living) is appreciably lower.

The death-rate from Infectious Diseases stands at a low figure.

The treatment of Consumption has been carried on under difficulties, but with a record of good work done. The treatment of Advanced cases is having the consideration of the Council, and additional beds have been provided for discharged tuberculous soldiers.

Housing work, owing to the present position of the Country, is at a stand still.

The Council's Scheme for the treatment of Venereal Diseases, which became operative during 1917, has fully met the needs of the area and is in smooth working order.

Towards the end of the year measures for the protection of Maternity and the saving of Infant Life were initiated in a Scheme for Maternity and Infant Welfare Nursing, and although handicapped by lack of Staff, the work is steadily developing in efficiency.

I desire to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the Committee for their courtesy and support during the year.

I am also indebted to the District Medical Officers of Health and to the Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Staff for their loyal assistance.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

D. DRYBROUGH GOLD.

Shirehall,

December, 1918.

COUNTY STAFF.

ASSISTANT COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

PETER LOWE, M.A., B.Sc., M.B., D.P.H.

CLINICAL TUBERCULOSIS OFFICER.

M. T. MORGAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (on Service).

INSPECTOR OF MIDWIVES, and SUPERINTENDENT OF NURSES.

Miss A. BODEN, Church Road Cottages, Tupsley, Hereford.

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT.

Miss NESBITT.

CLERK—Mr. L. A. NICHOLLS (on Service).

Dr. Morgan, the Clinical Tuberculosis Officer, joined the R.A.M.C. in July, 1915, and is on active service.

Mr. L. A. Nicholls, clerk in the Department, joined His Majesty's Forces at the outbreak of war, and is still serving.

DISTRICT MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

Dr. Jones, of the Combined Districts, Dr. Harrison, Ledbury Urban, Dr. Campbell, Ross Urban and Rural, are all serving in the R.A.M.C.

Arrangements were made in all cases to carry on the work of these officers temporarily; one of the deputies having been called up, further arrangements with local practitioners have had to be made.

DATES ON WHICH THE ANNUAL REPORTS WERE RECEIVED FOR YEAR 1917.

URBAN.

Bromyard	...	...	...	...	August 14th, 1918.
Hereford City	...	...	...	...	July 10th, ..
Kington	...	...	...	...	November 10th, ..
Ledbury	...	...	...	...	May 28th, ..
Leominster	...	...	...	...	June 4th, ..
Ross	...	...	...	...	September 19th, ..

RURAL.

Bredwardine	September 25th, ..
Bromyard	}	Combined Districts.	}	...	November 14th, ..
Dore					
Hereford					
Ledbury					
Leominster					
Weobley	}	}	}	...	November 10th, ..
Kington					
Ross					
Whitchurch					
Wigmore					

AREA AND POPULATION.

AREA.—This is the same as for the year 1915.

POPULATION.—According to the Census of 1911 the population of the Administrative County was 114,269, made up of 55,168 males and 59,101 females. The following table shows the population at the Census of 1901 and 1911 :—

		1901		1911
		<i>Census.</i>		<i>Census.</i>
Administrative County	...	114,125	...	114,269
Urban Districts	...	38,585	...	39,867
Rural Districts	...	75,540	...	74,402

Owing to the War, the usual method of estimating the population has had to be abandoned, in consequence of the drafting of men of military age abroad, and also from one area to another. Comparisons with the figures of former years are therefore somewhat unreliable.

The Registrar General has issued two estimates of the populations for 1917, one for the death-rate and one for the birth-rate.

The following table gives the populations of all the districts at the Census of 1911, and as estimated by the Registrar General for the year 1917.

URBAN DISTRICTS.

	Population Census 1911.	Population Estimated 1917 (For Birth rate).	Population Estimated 1917 (For Death rate).
Bromyard	1,703	1,617	1,451
Hereford City (M.B.)	22,568	25,913	23,246
Kington	1,819	1,592	1,428
Ledbury	3,358	2,897	2,599
Leominster (M.B.)	5,737	5,471	4,908
Ross	4,682	4,492	4,030
	39,867	41,982	37,662

RURAL DISTRICTS.

Bredwardine	1,995	2,001	1,795
Bromyard	7,931	7,634	6,848
Dore	6,491	6,415	5,755
Hereford	13,597	13,025	11,685
Kington	4,996	4,887	4,384
Ledbury	9,059	8,743	7,843
Leominster	7,915	7,727	6,932
Ross	10,421	10,419	9,347
Weobley	6,699	6,407	5,748
Whitchurch	1,526	1,466	1,315
Wigmore	3,772	3,376	3,029
	74,402	72,100	64,681

TOTAL ESTIMATED CIVIL POPULATION,

as given by Registrar-General.

	Population Census 1911.	Population Estimated 1917 (For Birth rate).	Population Estimated 1917 (For Death rate).
Urban Districts	39,867	41,982	37,662
Rural Districts	74,402	72,100	64,681
Total Population Adminis- trative County	114,269	114,082	102,343

BIRTH-RATE.

The total number of births registered in the County during 1917, after due correction, was 1,673, against 1,978 in 1916. Of this number, 619 occurred in the Urban districts and 1,054 in the Rural districts.

				No. of Births 1917.	Birth-rate 1917.	Birth-rate 1916.
<i>Urban Districts.</i>						
1.	Bromyard ...	...	...	21	12.9	15.4
2.	Hereford City ...	...	...	386	14.9	17.5
3.	Kington ...	...	...	25	15.7	18.9
4.	Ledbury ...	...	...	46	15.9	16.9
5.	Leominster...	...	...	73	13.3	20.8
6.	Ross ...	...	...	68	15.1	21.6
<i>Rural Districts.</i>						
1.	Bredwardine ...	...	...	32	16.0	15.8
2.	Bromyard ...	...	...	107	14.0	20.0
3.	Dore ...	...	...	117	18.2	23.7
4.	Hereford ...	...	...	187	14.3	17.4
5.	Kington ...	...	...	63	12.9	17.2
6.	Ledbury ...	...	...	119	13.6	14.7
7.	Leominster...	...	...	112	18.3	16.7
8.	Ross ...	...	...	154	14.8	14.0
9.	Weobley ...	...	...	88	13.7	17.4
10.	Whitchurch ...	...	...	17	11.6	13.7
11.	Wigmore ...	...	...	58	17.2	16.8

**BIRTH-RATES OF URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY.**

(Per 1,000 persons living.)

	1917	1916.
Urban Districts	14.7	18.8
Rural Districts	14.6	17.1
Administrative County	14.7	17.6
England and Wales	17.8	—

The birth-rate for the Administrative County, after due correction, is 2.9 per 1,000 lower than last year.

Of the Urban Districts, the highest rate occurred in Ledbury (15.9), and the lowest in Bromyard (12.9). Of the Rural Districts, the highest rate occurred in Leominster (18.3), and the lowest in Whitchurch (11.6).

The birth-rate for the whole County is the lowest rate ever recorded.

ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

There were, during 1917, 133 illegitimate births in the County, compared with 158 in 1916 and 136 in 1915.

DEATH-RATE.

The number of deaths which occurred in the County during 1917, after due correction for residents and non-residents, was 1,593. Of these, 586 occurred in the Urban districts and 1,007 in the Rural districts. The following table shows how these deaths are distributed and the rates per 1,000 persons living :—

				<i>No. of Deaths 1917.</i>	<i>Death-rate 1917.</i>	<i>Death-rate 1916.</i>
<i>Urban Districts.</i>						
1.	Bromyard ...	...	...	37	25.5	21.3
2.	Hereford City ...	...	...	325	14.0	15.4
3.	Kington ...	...	...	32	22.4	15.2
4.	Ledbury ...	...	...	51	19.6	16.9
5.	Leominster...	...	...	75	15.3	19.6
6.	Ross ...	...	...	66	16.3	18.5
<i>Rural Districts.</i>						
1.	Bredwardine ...	...	...	24	13.4	19.4
2.	Bromyard ...	...	...	103	15.0	14.9
3.	Dore ...	...	...	85	14.8	11.7
4.	Hereford ...	...	...	203	17.4	17.9
5.	Kington ...	...	...	61	13.9	16.3
6.	Ledbury ...	...	...	117	14.9	13.4
7.	Leominster...	...	...	117	16.9	17.1
8.	Ross ...	...	...	147	15.7	16.5
9.	Weobley ...	...	...	84	14.6	15.6
10.	Whitchurch ...	...	...	17	12.9	14.2
11.	Wigmore ...	...	...	49	16.2	12.9

**CRUDE DEATH-RATES OF URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS AND
ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY.**

(Per 1,000 persons living.)

				1917.	1916.
Urban Districts	...	...	...	15.6	16.8
Rural Districts	...	...	...	15.6	15.6
Administrative County	...	...	...	15.6	16.0
England and Wales	...	...	...	14.4	14.0

Below, the standardized death-rates are given and compared with the crude death-rates :—

	Crude Death-Rate 1917.	Standard- izing Factor.	Standardized Death-rate 1917.
<i>Urban Districts.</i>			
Bromyard	25.5	.8537	21.8
Hereford City	14.0	.9068	12.7
Kington	22.4	.7783	17.4
Ledbury	19.6	.8307	16.3
Leominster	15.3	.8494	13.0
Ross	16.3	.8558	13.9
<i>Rural Districts.</i>			
Bredwardine	13.4	.8212	11.0
Bromyard	15.0	.7833	11.7
Dore	14.8	.8095	12.0
Hereford	17.4	.8143	14.2
Kington	13.9	.7712	10.7
Ledbury	14.9	.8473	12.6
Leominster	16.9	.7792	13.2
Ross	15.7	.8097	12.7
Weobley	14.6	.7726	11.3
Whitchurch	12.9	.7938	10.2
Wigmore	16.2	.7936	12.9
Urban Districts	15.6	.8701	13.6
Rural Districts	15.6	.7997	12.5
Administrative County ...	15.6	.8229	12.8

The crude death-rate of the County for 1917 is .4 per 1,000 lower than that for 1916.

It must be remembered that too much attention need not be paid to fluctuations in the death-rates of small districts taken separately. Also the four years' War has led to much disturbance in the population, rendering an accurate estimate difficult.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The death-rate among infants under one year is 8 per 1,000 births lower than that of 1916.

The infant mortality rate refers to the number of children who die under one year, per 1,000 births. During the year there were 58 deaths in the Urban and 69 deaths in the Rural districts of children under one year—in all 127.

			No. of Deaths.	Rate 1917.	Rate 1916.
<i>Urban.</i>					
1.	Bromyard	...	4	190	192
2.	Hereford City	...	33	85	92
3.	Kington	...	2	80	129
4.	Ledbury	...	2	43	98
5.	Leominster...	...	8	109	78
6.	Ross	...	9	132	112
<i>Rural.</i>					
1.	Bredwardine	...	2	62	97
2.	Bromyard	...	6	56	32
3.	Dore	...	10	85	93
4.	Hereford	...	11	58	76
5.	Kington	...	5	79	83
6.	Ledbury	...	3	25	103
7.	Leominster...	...	9	80	81
8.	Ross	...	11	71	68
9.	Weobley	...	4	45	51
10.	Whitchurch	...	1	58	45
11.	Wigmore	...	7	120	94

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATES FOR URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY.

(Per 1,000 Births.)

	1917.	1916.
Urban Districts ...	93	98
Rural Districts ...	65	74
Administrative County	75	83
England and Wales ...	97	91

The rate for the County as a whole is lower by 8 per 1,000 births than that for 1916.

In England and Wales as a whole the rate in 1917 was 97 per 1,000 births.

In the 96 great towns it was 104 per 1,000 births. In the 148 smaller towns it was 93 per 1,000 births.

ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE, Etc.

By the above term is meant the deaths from the Principal Infectious Diseases, and the Table below gives the death rates per 1,000 persons, and compares them with those of England and Wales. There were 29 deaths, against 23 in 1916.

	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Enteric Fever.	Violence.	Annual Death-rate, Per 1000 Births.
								Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)
Urban Districts ...	0.00	0.000	0.000	0.159	0.000	0.000	0.664	6.46
Rural Districts ...	0.00	0.015	0.030	0.108	0.046	0.000	0.387	5.69
Administrative County	0.00	0.009	0.019	0.127	0.029	0.000	0.489	5.97
England and Wales	0.00	0.30	0.02	0.13	0.13	0.03	0.52	12.18

The death-rates for 1917 are much lower than last year, and compare well with the rates for England and Wales.

There was no mortality from Enteric fever.

The death-rate from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years) is higher than last year, but much lower than that for England and Wales.

NUMBER OF DEATHS FROM THE PRINCIPAL ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

	Urban Districts.	Rural Districts.	Admin. County.
Small Pox	0	0	0
Measles	0	1	1
Scarlet Fever	0	2	2
Whooping Cough	6	7	13
Diphtheria	0	3	3
Enteric Fever	0	0	0
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	4	6	10
Totals	10	19	29

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year 1917, 125 deaths were directly attributable to Tuberculosis. Of this number 105 of the deaths were caused by Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Phthisis), and 20 by other tubercular diseases.

Compared with 1916, therefore, there were 6 fewer deaths from all forms of Tuberculosis and 4 more from Tuberculosis of the Lungs (Phthisis).

PHTHISIS.

Tuberculosis of Lungs (Phthisis).—The number of deaths from Phthisis in the Administrative County during 1917 was 104, of which 40 occurred in the Urban and 65 in the Rural districts. The rates per 1,000 persons for the separate districts, are :—

				No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 1917.	Rate per 1,000 1916.
<i>Urban Districts.</i>						
1.	Bromyard	...	...	4	2.76	1.29
2.	Hereford City	...	...	15	0.65	0.68
3.	Kington	...	...	3	2.10	0.66
4.	Ledbury	...	...	4	1.54	0.72
5.	Leominster...	...	...	8	1.63	1.96
6.	Ross	...	...	6	1.49	1.92
<i>Rural Districts.</i>						
1.	Bredwardine	...	...	1	0.56	0.00
2.	Bromyard	...	...	8	1.17	1.12
3.	Dore	...	...	0	0.00	0.52
4.	Hereford	...	...	16	1.37	1.69
5.	Kington	...	...	6	1.37	1.34
6.	Ledbury	...	...	7	0.89	0.35
7.	Leominster...	...	...	7	1.01	0.81
8.	Ross	...	...	13	1.39	0.72
9.	Weobley	...	...	4	0.70	0.96
10.	Whitchurch	...	...	0	0.00	0.68
11.	Wigmore	...	...	3	0.99	1.14

Calculated on the total number of deaths returned, the rates for Urban and Rural areas and Administrative County are :—

	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 persons 1916.	Rate per 1,000 persons 1915.
Urban Districts	40	1.06	1.04
Rural Districts	65	1.00	0.94
Administrative County ...	105	1.03	0.98

The rate in the Administrative County is higher than in 1916 by .05 per 1,000 persons living.

OTHER FORMS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

During 1917 there were 20 deaths (8 in the Urban and 12 in the Rural Districts), from other forms of tuberculosis, giving the following rates :—

Urban.	Total Tuberculosis Rate per 1,000 (including Phthisis.)		“ Other Forms of Tuberculosis ” Rate per 1,000 (excluding Phthisis)	
	1917.	1916.	1917.	1916.
Bromyard	4.14	2.58	1.38	1.29
Hereford City	0.91	1.12	0.26	0.44
Kington	2.10	0.66	0.00	0.00
Ledbury	1.54	1.08	0.00	0.36
Leominster	1.63	2.75	0.00	0.79
Ross	1.49	2.16	0.00	0.24
<i>Rural.</i>				
Bredwardine	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bromyard	1.32	1.40	0.15	0.28
Dore	0.00	0.52	0.00	0.00
Hereford	1.71	2.03	0.34	0.34
Kington	1.37	1.79	0.00	0.45
Ledbury	1.40	0.58	0.51	0.23
Leominster	1.15	1.21	0.14	0.40
Ross	1.50	0.72	0.11	0.00
Weobley	0.87	0.96	0.17	0.00
Whitchurch	0.00	0.68	0.00	0.00
Wigmore	0.99	1.14	0.00	0.00

**"TOTAL TUBERCULOSIS" AND "OTHER TUBERCULAR DISEASES"
RATES, URBAN AND RURAL DISTRICTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE
COUNTY.**

	Total Tuberculosis Rate per 1,000 (including Phthisis).		"Other Forms of Tuberculosis" Rate per 1,000 (excluding Phthisis).	
	1917.	1916.	1917.	1916.
Urban Districts	1.27	1.52	0.21	0.48
Rural Districts	1.19	1.13	0.19	0.19
Administrative County ...	1.22	1.27	0.19	0.29

**NUMBER OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED DURING
1917.**

	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Other forms of Tuberculosis.	
	No. of Cases Notified.	*Rate per 1,000 Population	No. of Cases Notified.	Rate per 1,000 Population
Urban Districts... ..	84	2.23	19	0.50
Rural Districts	117	1.81	20	0.31
Admin. County	201	1.96	39	0.38
England (excluding London)	54,928	2.01	17,122	0.63

* Rates calculated upon estimated civil population at mid-year, 1917.

ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS.

The temporary arrangements adopted during the War were well maintained during the year, and all tuberculous civil and military cases have been dealt with within the means at our disposal.

Notification.

A larger number of Pulmonary cases were notified than in 1916; the non-pulmonary cases, however, were fewer than last year.

There is still considerable laxity in notification.

A large number of the cases are notified too late for arrest or cure. This is borne out by the fact that a considerable proportion of the cases die within a month of notification.

Treatment.

(a) DISPENSARIES.

The number of cases which received attention at the County Dispensaries during 1917 is given in the annexed Table.

During the year the Dispensaries dealt with 2,237 separate attendances of patients, involving 561 patients; 380 tuberculin injections were administered, and 272 (130 insured and 142 uninsured) new cases came under review.

The work, in the absence of the Clinical Tuberculosis Officer, was again carried on by Dr. Lowe and myself, in accordance with the curtailed arrangements as approved by the Local Government Board.

(b) INSTITUTIONAL.

Early in 1916 the Council took 12 beds (8 male and 4 female) at Knightwick Sanatorium, and 2 further female beds were obtained later in the year. These beds are held on an agreement between the two Authorities.

In January, 1917, a further 10 beds (5 male and 5 female) were taken for a year at Cranham Lodge Sanatorium.

The County, therefore, has the use of 24 beds, 12 of which are at the disposal of Insured cases, in accordance with an agreement sealed between the County Council and the Insurance Committee.

By agreement with the Knightwick Authorities a further 10 beds become available in January, 1919, 3 of which (2 male and 1 female) were obtained towards the end of 1918.

These 10 beds were to take the place of the 10 beds occupied at Cranham Lodge Sanatorium until the end of 1918. The County Council, however, have decided to keep on the beds at Cranham Lodge for the year 1919. On January 1st, 1919, therefore, the following beds are at the service of the County :—

Knightwick Sanatorium	...	24	(15 males, 9 females).
Cranham Lodge	„	...	10 (5 „ 5 „).

Cases sent to Sanatoria.

Seventy-three insured cases have been sent to Sanatoria during the year, in addition to 27 uninsured and dependents.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>
No. applying for Sanatorium Benefit ...	53	14
No. sent to Sanatoria (Insured) ...	53	20
" " " (Uninsured and Dependents) 8	...	19

Those not sent to an Institution received domiciliary treatment.

Of the 53 males, 32 were discharged tuberculous soldiers.

Shelters.

Thirty-seven Shelters have been in almost constant use during the whole year, and the benefits accruing to patients who have previously received treatment in Sanatoria is, generally, very marked. Much difficulty has been encountered in the transfer of Shelters, owing to the shortage of labour.

Extra Nourishment.

During 1917 no grant for extra nourishment was made by the Insurance Committee to Insured patients.

Domiciliary Attention.

Domiciliary treatment rendered to Insured persons by medical practitioners was estimated to cost £641 4s. 6d., during the year 1917. For these figures I am indebted to the Clerk to the Insurance Committee.

Nursing Arrangements.

These are the same as described in 1914 Report, and have worked well. In addition to attendance at the Dispensaries, domiciliary visitation is made to notified rural cases, as soon after notification as possible.

In October, 1917, Tuberculosis Nursing was incorporated in the general Scheme of Infant Welfare and Health Visiting.

Beds for Advanced Cases.

Negotiations between the County Council and the Town Council have been opened with a view to utilising the existing Small-pox Hospital accommodation for these cases.

OTHER RESPIRATORY DISEASES.

These diseases include Pneumonia, Bronchitis and other diseases of the Respiratory organs (but do not include Tubercular disease of the lungs).

From these causes there were 245 deaths—99 Urban and 146 Rural, giving rates respectively of 2.6 and 2.3 per 1,000 of the population, compared with rates of 2.2 and 2.2 for 1916.

1917.

<i>Dispensary.</i>	<i>No. of Patients' Attendances.</i>	<i>No. of Cases Attended.</i>	TUBERCULIN.		NEW CASES.			
			<i>No. of Injections.</i>	<i>No. of Cases Receiving.</i>	<i>Insured.</i>		<i>Dependents.</i>	
					<i>Men.</i>	<i>Women.</i>	<i>Over 16.</i>	
							<i>M.</i>	<i>Under 16. M. F.</i>
Hereford ...	1551	266	380	28	56	17	6	27 19
Leominster ...	156	73	—	—	13	7	1	9 13
Ross ...	224	92	—	—	10	3	0	9 6
Ledbury ...	123	52	—	—	5	1	—	9 5
Bromyard ...	79	32	—	—	4	1	—	4 7
Kington ...	104	46	—	—	6	7	—	1 1
	2237	561	380	28	94	36	7	59 51

1917.

NOTIFICATIONS ON FORM "A."													NOTIFICATIONS ON FORM "B."				NOTIFICATIONS ON FORM "C."		
Age Period.	Number of Primary Notifications.										Total Notifications on Form "A."	No. of Primary Notifications.				Total Notifications on Form "B."	Poor Law Institutions.	Sanatoria.	
	0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 and upwards.		Total Primary Notifications.	Under 5	5 to 10	10 to 15				Total Primary Notifications.
Pulmonary Males...	—	—	3	10	6	18	27	17	11	4	4	100	—	—	1	1	1	1	59
Pulmonary Females...	—	2	2	9	11	8	31	12	10	4	1	90	—	—	1	2	3	3	39
Non-pulmonary Males...	—	4	4	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	—	17	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Non-pulmonary Females...	1	—	1	4	3	4	3	1	—	1	—	18	—	1	2	3	3	—	—

These figures refer to the cases which have been reported to me weekly by the District Medical Officers of Health—not to the returns in their Annual Reports.

DISPENSARIES.

Situation of Dispensary (stating whether main or branch Dispensary), or Visiting Station).	Day and hours when Dispensary or Visiting Station is open.	Number of persons, including contacts, who were examined for the first time, during the period from 1st Jan., 1917, to the 31st Dec., 1917, at or in connection with the dispensary or visiting station and were:—						Number of persons diagnosed as suffering from Tuberculosis, 1917, to 31st Dec., 1917.		Number of persons who were treated or supervised at or in connection with the dispensary or visiting station on 31st Dec., 1917.	
		Diagnosed as suffering from Tuberculosis.	Diagnosed as not suffering from Tuberculosis.	Undiagnosed and remaining under observation.	Total number examined.		Insured.	Uninsured.	Insured.	Uninsured.	Insured.
					Insured.	Uninsured.					
Hereford (Main)...	Weds., Saturday, 9.30-12.30	73	30	32	73	62	98	58	103	100	
*Leominster	Friday, 12.30 ...	17	16	14	20	27	27	14	25	25	
(Branch)											
Ross	Thursday, 12.30 ...	14	11	9	13	21	31	21	33	45	
"											
Ledbury	Tuesday, 12.30 ...	12	4	5	6	15	19	10	15	29	
"											
Bromyard	Thursday, 12.30 ...	7	8	3	5	13	10	3	8	13	
"											
Kington	Tuesday, 12.30 ...	7	4	6	13	4	20	6	16	6	
	TOTALS ...	130	73	69	130	142	205	112	200	218	

* For the present the Rural Branch Dispensaries are held once every 2nd or 3rd week.

CANCER.

During the past year 128 deaths in the County were due to Cancer, 49 occurring in the Urban districts and 79 in the Rural districts. The number of deaths, with rates, in the various districts are:—

	<i>Rate per 1,000 1917.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 1916.</i>
Urban Districts	1.30	1.60
Rural Districts	1.22	1.25
Administrative County	1.25	1.37

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**SMALL-POX.**

There were no cases of Small-pox notified during the year throughout the County.

SCARLET FEVER.

During the year 20 cases were returned as notified in the Urban and 65 in the Rural districts—85* in all, against 161 in 1916.

There were no deaths in the Urban districts, and two deaths in the Rural districts, giving a death-rate of 0.030 per 1,000.

The death-rate for the County as a whole works out at 0.019.

	<i>Attack rates per 1,000 population.</i>	<i>Number treated in Hospital.</i>
Urban Districts	0.53	13
Rural Districts	0.94	19
Administrative County	0.80	32
England and Wales (Administrative Counties)	1.45	—

There was again a great reduction in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever compared to 1916. The Urban Districts were particularly free from the disease.

* These figures are those reported by District M.O.H.

DIPHTHERIA.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified during 1917 was 47—17 from the Urban districts and 30 from the Rural districts, against 88—14 Urban and 74 Rural in 1916.

Three deaths occurred in the Rural districts, giving a death-rate of 0.046 per 1,000. The death-rate for the County as a whole works out at 0.029 per 1,000.

	Attack Rate per 1,000 population.	Number treated in Hospital.
Urban Districts	0.45	2
Rural Districts	0.46	0
Administrative County	0.46	2
England and Wales (Administrative Counties)	1.28	—

TYPHOID AND ALLIED FEVERS.

Under this head there are only 4 cases to record—one in the Urban districts and three in the Rural districts.

	<i>Attack rates per 1,000 population</i>
Urban Districts	0.027
Rural Districts	0.046
Administrative County	0.039
England and Wales (Administrative Counties)	0.14

PUERPERAL FEVER.

There were two cases of Puerperal Fever notified during the year from the Urban districts. No deaths occurred.

	<i>Attack rates per 1,000 population</i>
Urban Districts	0.027
Rural Districts	0.000
Administrative County	0.010
England and Wales (Administrative Counties)	0.04

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Since January 1st, 1914, this disease is on the list of those compulsorily notifiable.

During the year three cases were notified.

POLIOMYELITIS.

Two cases of this disease were notified.

CEREBRO-SPINAL MENINGITIS.

One case was notified. Bacteriological examination of throat swabs was largely taken advantage of.

WHOOPING COUGH.

Thirteen deaths occurred from this disease, six in the Urban and seven in the Rural Districts. Eleven occurred in children under two years. The comparative death-rates will be found in Table on page 12.

MEASLES.

One death occurred. There were notified 671 cases. A system of notification by School Teachers to the School Medical Officer and the District Medical Officers of Health has also been in force for several years.

Many cases are still not notified under the Local Government Board Order, which came into force on January 1st, 1916.

ERYSIPELAS.

Of this disease, 42 cases were notified—22 from the Urban and 20 from the Rural Districts. The attack rate was 0.41, against 0.40 for the Administrative Counties (England and Wales).

Four deaths occurred in the Rural districts.

DIARRHOEAL DISEASES.

Twenty-six deaths occurred, ten of which were in persons under two years of age, and ten over the age of 45.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS.

There have been no developments in Isolation Hospital accommodation during the year. It may, however, be again stated broadly that the accommodation in the County is anything but satisfactory, except in the City of Hereford.

During the year the amount of Infectious Disease was moderate, and the Hospital accommodation was not overtaxed. This, however, must be regarded as the exception.

Arrangements have been made for any outbreak arising out of War conditions, and it is hoped this provisional accommodation would give, in the event of an outbreak, sufficient opportunity for an extension of the number of beds adequate to the needs of the Authorities.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Public Health (Venereal Diseases) Regulations, 1916, came into force on July 12th, 1916, and a Scheme was prepared and approved by the Council and the Local Government Board which enabled the facilities to become available by April 1st, 1917.

By the Scheme, one Treatment Centre is provided at the Herefordshire General Hospital for the whole County, and is under the care of a physician and a surgeon who have specialised in these diseases. Arrangements are made with Birmingham University Pathological Department for the Wassermann tests, etc., and with the County Laboratory for part of the microscopical work.

A Report on the work done has already been supplied to the Local Government Board.

During the part of 1917 when the Isolation Clinic was available, 62 cases were treated, 47 of which were discharged as cured. The total number of attendances of all persons at the Clinic was 302, and the number of doses of Salvarsan substitutes given was 154.

In August, 1918, the whole of the Isolation Building of the General Hospital was taken over for the purposes of the Clinic, the original accommodation having been found inadequate. The arrangements are now most suitable and convenient. The publicity methods, by which the Clinic is made known, have received further attention.

HOUSING.

Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, etc. Practically no housing work has been undertaken during the year, except matters of extreme urgency, and the Reports of the District Medical Officers of Health give little or no information. Investigation is being made into the needs of each district and the information will be embodied in a special Report to be issued later.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The water supplies in the Rural Districts are mainly from shallow wells, and these yield a water of rather a low standard.

Ample facilities exist for the examination of samples at the County Laboratory, and during the year 62 samples have been examined, 35 of which were passed as fit for drinking purposes, and 27 condemned. There are a few good piped supplies in certain districts, and such should be developed as far as possible.

SEWAGE AND DRAINAGE.

No new work of any importance has been carried out during the year, and further reference to the subject at present is unnecessary.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

I have no part in the administration of this Act. This is undertaken by the Standing Joint Committee of the County, so far as the County area is concerned. The City of Hereford is a separate local executive Authority, and its Health Committee controls the duties performed under the Acts.

In accordance with the Local Government Board Order, 6th August, 1912, the County Public Health Committee recommended in 1913 that the County Medical Officer of Health should supervise generally the administration of the Food and Drugs Acts, and that some co-operation should be brought about between the two Committees. No steps to this desirable end have been taken.

CITY OF HEREFORD.

Name of Article.	Number of Samples tak n.	Genuine.	Adul- terated.	Remarks.
(1) Milk	23	13	10	(1) One sample contained 9% added water. Two samples contained 20% added water. Seller of these fined £1 and costs, 10/6. One sample contained 9% added water and was 24% deficient in fat. Fined £2 and costs, 15/6. One sample contained 25% added water. Wholesaleman fined £2 and 15/6 costs. One sample contained 5% added water.
(2) Cream (Preserved)	1	1		
(3) Butter	18	17	1	(3) One sample contained only 40% Butter Fat. Fined £5.
(4) Margarine	2	2		
(5) Nut Butter	1	1		
(6) Mustard	1	1		
(7) Cheese	2	2		
(8) Bread	1	1		
(9) Tea	3	2	1	
(10) Lard	2	2		
(11) Rice	1	1		
(12) Cream of Tartar Substitute	5	-	5	(12) Contained excess of Arsenic and Calcium Sulphate. Stock voluntarily surrendered for destruction.
(13) Coffee	1	1		
TOTALS	61	44	17	

COUNTY OF HEREFORD.

(1) Milk	20	14	6	(1) Three of the samples contained 17%, 10%, and 8% of added water. One was 5% deficient in fats. One was poor in fat and deficient in solids not fat, and another was 11% deficient in fats.
(2) Preserved Cream ...	3		3	(2) One sample contained less than 35% fat, and another sample contained 54.5% fat and .53% Boric Acid.
(3) Tea	3	3		
(4) Vinegar	1	1		
(5) Ginger	1	1		
(6) Arrowroot	2	2		
(7) Butter	9	8	1	(7) One sample contained 16% added water.
(8) Margarine	1	1		
(9) Lard	1	1		
(10) Cheese	3	3		
(11) Pepper	3	3		
TOTALS	47	37	10	
GRAND TOTALS FOR ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY	108	81	27	

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A Scheme was finally accepted by the County Council in July, 1917, and approved by the Local Government Board.

The main principles of the Scheme will ultimately procure a Nursing and Maternity service for the County by co-operation with the County Nursing Association and the employment of six or seven whole time and trained Nurse Health Visitors, who will be employed in as many Nursing Areas. In each area the trained Health Visitor will be assisted by the District Nurses in that area, and carry out combined duties in School Nursing, Tuberculosis work, Infant Welfare, and Inspection of Midwives.

The work was started in November, 1917, when three Health Visitors were appointed to augment the present staff. It was then very difficult to obtain satisfactorily trained nurses. From Nov. till end of year, 228 visits were made.

A start was made in four of the proposed Nursing Areas, and the other parts of the County were temporarily allotted to the Assistant Superintendent. In each area the Health Visitor visited the notified births, attended the local Infant Welfare Centre (if established), visited all notified cases of tuberculosis, and attended at the local Tuberculosis Dispensary. She also attended School Inspections, visited schools to inspect the children as to cleanliness, and carried out the necessary following up in the homes. These school duties were, however, assigned to the County Nursing Association's local nurse wherever possible. On April 1st, 1918, the service was strengthened by the adoption of the Notification of Births Act for the County as a whole.

Voluntary Centres are being successfully carried on in Leominster Borough, Ledbury, Kington and Weobley, and others are about to be formed. Extensions in the scope of the work will, no doubt, be made as experience dictates.

COUNTY AND CITY LABORATORY.

The Laboratory for the use of the County and City at 132, St. Owen Street, Hereford, was opened in April, 1913.

Complete outfits are supplied by the County Medical Officer, under whose personal supervision the work of the Laboratory is conducted. Positive results are transmitted by telephone or telegram in order to avoid delay. No charge is made for the examination of "ordinary" specimens arising from the routine work of any Sanitary Authority in the County.

Specimens, however, sent by the general public are subject to a modified fee.

The following work was carried out during the year 1917 :—

	SPECIMENS.		
	<i>No.</i>	<i>Con- taminated.</i>	<i>Passed.</i>
Chemical.			
Examinations of potable waters...	59	27	32
Bacteriological.			
Examinations of potable waters...	3	0	3
	62	27	35
		<i>Positive.</i>	<i>Negative.</i>
Microscopical.			
Examinations for Bacillus Diph- theriæ	208	33	175
Examinations for Bacillus Tuber- culosis (sputum)	266	42	224
Examinations for Bacillus Tuber- culosis (milk)	1	0	1
Examinations for Bacillus Tuber- culosis (urine, &c.)	7	1	6
Examinations for Cerebro-Spinal Fever	28	1	27
Examinations for Bacillus Ty- phosus (Widal Reaction) ...	22	0	22
Examinations for Bacillus Para- typhosus	6	1	5
Examinations for Streptococcus...	3	0	3
Examinations for Bacillus Coli...	5	5	0
Examinations for Vincent's Angina	1	0	1
Examinations for Gonococcus ...	6	1	5
„ „ Ringworm ...	1	0	1
Total	554	84	470
GRAND TOTAL	616	111	505

THE MIDWIVES' ACT.

Summary of the Inspector's Work from January 1st to December 31st, 1917.

Regular Inspections of Midwives	...	...	...	...	231
Special Visits of Enquiry	...	...	...	...	94
Visits to non-registered Women reported to be practising	...	...	...	...	1
Letters and Notices sent out	...	...	...	...	535
<i>Notifications received—</i>					
“ Intention to practise ”	...	...	...	...	117
“ Of Sending for Medical Help ”	...	...	...	...	202
“ Of Still-births ”	...	...	...	...	30
“ Last Offices ”	...	...	...	...	6
Temporary withdrawals on account of being exposed to infection	...	...	...	...	11
		<i>Died.</i>	<i>Recovered.</i>		<i>Total.</i>
Septic Cases	...	0	2	...	2
<i>Midwives practising—</i>					
Number of Trained Midwives working under Local Nursing Associations affiliated to the County Nursing Association...					33
Trained Midwives working under Local Associations <i>not</i> affiliated to the County Nursing Association	...	...	...	...	6
Trained Midwives practising on their own account	...	...	...	...	17
Bona-fide Midwives	...	...	...	...	48
					<hr/>
		<i>Total</i>	...	...	98
					<hr/>

There are several Midwives resident in adjacent Counties, and not included in the above list, who occasionally take cases in Herefordshire, and regularly notify to this Authority their intention to practise.

Trained Midwives from other Counties who take holiday and emergency work in the County receive routine inspection.

One District (Peterchurch) has been formed and affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

During the year the Nurses working under affiliated Local Associations have attended :—

					<i>Cases.</i>
As Midwives	...	...	...	...	339
As Maternity Nurses under Medical Practitioners	...	...	...	...	77
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	416
					<hr/>

Five County Nurses finished training during 1917.

One of these began work in the re-affiliated district of Burghill.

The other two have filled vacancies caused by resignations.

No candidates were in training at the end of the year.

(Signed)

A. BODEN,
Inspector of Midwives.

Supply and Training of Midwives.

The work under the Midwives' Act is controlled by the Nursing and Midwives' Committee—which is the Midwives' Act Committee enlarged and formed to deal with Nursing problems arising out of the Child Welfare Scheme.

The number of practising Midwives is steadily decreasing. The actual number of practising Midwives in the County is ten less than last year. This is mainly due to loss by death of the older bona-fide Midwives. The question of maintaining and increasing the number of Midwives has been frequently under discussion in relation to the general problem of Maternity and Infant Welfare. There are many areas where they are badly wanted, but the difficulty arises in finding suitable women for training. The Committee consider that the most desirable way of providing a midwifery service for the areas unserved is by the extension of District Nurses under the County Nursing Association, and this may be more feasible in the near future, when women are released from more temporarily remunerative occupations.

Unregistered Midwives.

One case continues to require notice. Apart from this, there is practically no known unregistered practice. Such cases are difficult to deal with, receiving, as they often do, a good share of local support and protection. The fact that they are tempted to practise at all is very largely due to the inadequate supply of registered women.

Puerperal Infection.

Of the two septic cases which were reported to the Inspector during the year, no death occurred. Strict precautions were taken in each case, and the Midwives withdrawn from practice.

Grants.

For the third year, the County Nursing Association have been in receipt of a grant of £120 for the year 1917. Part of this has been assigned in respect of cases of Midwifery attended by Nurse Midwives of the affiliated Associations ; the remainder has been utilised for training Midwives.

Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life

CAUSES OF DEATH.					Sex.	AGGREGATE OF UR				
						All Ages.	0—	1—	2—	5—
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	M	301	27	4	6	10
					F	285	30	3	9	12
1 Enteric Fever...	...	...	...	...	M	...	...	...	...	...
					F	...	...	...	...	...
2. Small-pox	...	...	...	...	M	...	...	...	...	...
					F	...	...	...	...	...
3. Measles	...	...	...	...	M	...	...	...	...	...
					F	...	...	...	...	...
4. Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	M	...	...	...	...	...
					F	...	...	...	...	...
5 Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	M	1	1	...	...	...
					F	5	2	2	1	...
6. Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	...	M	...	...	...	...	...
					F	...	...	...	...	...
7. Influenza	...	...	...	...	M	8	1	...	...	...
					F	4	...	...	...	...
8. Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	M	...	...	...	...	...
					F	...	...	...	...	...
9. Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	M	24	...	...	1	1
					F	16	...	...	...	2
10. Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	...	M	2	...	1	...	1
					F	2	1	...	...	1
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	...	M	3	...	...	...	1
					F	1	...	...	1	...
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease	...	...	...	...	M	15	...	...	...	...
					F	34	...	...	...	...
13. Rheumatic Fever	...	...	...	...	M	1	...	...	...	1
					F	2	...	...	...	...
14. Meningitis	...	...	...	...	M	2	2	...	...	...
					F	2	...	...	...	1
15. Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	M	52	...	...	...	1
					F	29	...	...	...	1
16. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	M	24	1	...	...	...
					F	23	2	...	...	...
17. Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	M	19	4	1	2	...
					F	21	3	1	1	...
18. Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	M	8	...	...	1	1
					F	4	...	...	1	...
19. Diarrhoea, &c.	...	...	...	...	M	5	2	...	1	...
					F	6	2	...	1	2
20. Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	M	3	...	...	...	1
					F	...	...	...	...	...
21. Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	...	M	7	...	...	...	...
					F	...	...	...	...	...
21A. Alcoholism	...	...	...	...	M	1	...	...	...	...
					F	...	...	...	...	...
22. Nephritis and Bright's Disease	...	...	...	...	M	8	...	...	...	...
					F	6	...	...	...	...
23. Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	M	...	...	...	...	...
					F	...	...	...	...	...
24. Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever...	...	...	...	...	M	...	...	...	...	...
					F	2	...	...	...	...
25. Congenital Debility, &c.	...	...	...	...	M	8	8	...	...	...
					F	11	11	...	...	...
26. Violence, apart from Suicide	...	...	...	...	M	13	...	...	...	2
					F	12	1	...	2	3
27. Suicide	...	...	...	...	M	1	...	...	...	...
					F	2	...	...	...	...
28. Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	M	93	8	2	1	1
					F	102	8	...	2	2
29. Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	M	3	...	...	...	...
					F	1	...	...	...	...

the Administrative County of Hereford, 1917.

N DISTRICTS.				AGGREGATE OF RURAL DISTRICTS.								
5—	25—	45—	65—	All Ages.	0—	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—
7 6	30 25	79 64	138 136	561 446	42 27	8 6	5 4	13 9	18 13	38 47	119 89	318 251
...
...
...
...
...
...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
...
...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	I	...	I	...	...
...	...	...	...	I	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	6	4	I	I	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	I	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	3	4	12	2	...	I	I	...	...	3	5
...	...	...	4	11	...	...	...	...	I	...	4	6
...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	I
...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	I	I	...
4	11	7	...	38	...	...	...	I	7	19	10	I
2	5	6	I	27	...	...	...	...	5	15	5	2
...	...	...	...	3	I	I	...	I	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	2	I	...	...
...	...	I	I	2	...	...	...	...	...	I	I	...
...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	I	I	2	...
...	I	6	8	37	...	...	...	...	I	3	14	19
I	5	15	13	42	...	...	...	...	...	3	19	20
...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
...	I	I	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	I
...	...	...	...	I	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	I	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	8	16	27	96	...	...	...	...	3	3	25	65
...	...	10	18	88	...	...	...	...	I	3	16	68
...	2	2	19	35	3	I	...	...	...	...	2	29
...	I	2	18	43	2	2	...	...	...	...	4	35
...	I	4	7	32	5	2	...	I	I	2	7	14
...	I	5	10	20	2	I	...	...	...	I	8	8
...	...	2	4	10	...	...	...	2	...	...	4	4
...	...	2	I	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	3
...	...	I	I	8	3	...	I	...	...	...	...	4
...	...	...	I	7	2	I	...	...	...	I	2	I
I	I	...	...	4	...	...	...	2	I	...	...	I
...
...	...	3	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
...
I	I	3	3	23	...	...	...	...	...	I	6	16
...	3	I	2	20	...	...	I	...	...	4	4	11
...
...
...	2	...	...	5	...	...	...	...	2	3	...	...
...	...	...	...	18	18	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	9	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	I	7	3	20	...	I	I	I	2	2	7	6
...	2	2	2	5	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	2
...	...	I	...	13	...	...	...	...	I	3	7	2
...	I	I	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	I	4	...
I	3	21	56	196	8	3	2	I	2	4	31	145
2	4	18	66	130	6	...	I	3	I	10	17	92
...	...	2	I	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	4
...	...	I	...	5	I	I	...	I	...	I	...	I

CAUSES OF DEATH IN AD

CAUSES OF DEATH.				Bromyard U.D.		Hereford M.B.		Kington U.D.		Ledbury U.D.		Leominster M.B.		Ross U.D.		
				M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.
(Civilians only.)																
ALL CAUSES				15	22	164	161	19	13	27	24	40	35	36	30	
1. Enteric Fever... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2. Small-pox ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
3. Measles ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
4. Scarlet Fever ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5. Whooping Cough ... ..				...	...	1	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6. Diphtheria and Croup ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7. Influenza ... ..				...	...	5	2	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	1	...
8. Erysipelas ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9. Pulmonary Tuberculosis				2	2	9	6	2	1	1	3	7	1	3	3	...
10. Tuberculous Meningitis ... ..				...	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases				2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease ... ..				...	2	8	17	1	3	1	4	2	6	3	2	...
13. Rheumatic Fever ... ..				...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
14. Meningitis ... ..				...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...
15. Organic Heart Disease ... ..				...	2	33	17	3	...	8	3	6	5	2	2	...
16. Bronchitis				2	1	13	13	1	2	2	3	3	1	3	3	...
17. Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..				...	...	13	17	1	1	1	...	1	...	3	3	...
18. Other Respiratory Diseases				2	1	4	2	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
19. Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) ... ..				...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	1	...
20. Appendicitis and Typhlitis				1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
21. Cirrhosis of Liver ... ..				...	...	6	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
21A. Alcoholism ... ..				...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22. Nephritis and Bright's Disease				1	4	2	2	...	...	2	...	2	...	1	...	...
23. Puerperal Fever ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24. Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever... ..				...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25. Congenital Debility, &c.				1	1	3	6	...	...	1	1	...	2	3	1	...
26. Violence, apart from Suicide				1	3	8	5	...	...	...	...	3	3	1	1	...
27. Suicide ... ..				...	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
28. Other defined diseases				3	6	50	61	10	6	9	9	11	14	13	10	...
29. Causes ill-defined or unknown ... ..				...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	...
Special Causes (included above)—																
Cerebro-spinal Fever ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Poliomyelitis ... ..				...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age				2	2	15	17	1	1	1	1	3	5	5	4	...
TOTAL BIRTHS				10	11	180	206	17	8	26	20	32	41	36	32	...
Legitimate				10	9	167	188	16	8	25	18	30	38	31	30	...
Illegitimate ... ..				...	2	13	18	1	...	1	2	2	3	5	2	...
POPULATION FOR BIRTH-RATE				1,617		25,913		1,592		2,897		5,471		4,492		
" FOR DEATH-RATE				1,451		23,246		1,428		2,599		4,908		4,030		

Bredwardine R.D.		Bromyard R.D.		Dore R.D.		Hereford R.D.		Kington R.D.		Ledbury R.D.		Leominster R.D.		Ross R.D.		Weobley R.D.		Whitchurch R.D.		Wigmore R.D.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
17	7	50	53	45	40	120	83	32	29	58	59	68	49	83	64	48	36	13	4	27	22
...
...
...	I	I	...	I
...	I	...	2	...	2	I	I	...	I	I
...	...	I	I	3	I	I	I	I	I	2	I	2	...	2	5	I
I	I	I	I	I
I	...	5	3	12	4	3	3	4	3	5	2	4	9	3	I	I	2
...	...	I	2	2	I	I	...	I	...	I
?	...	2	5	5	4	6	13	I	2	4	9	7	2	2	3	5	2	I	I	2	I
...	I	I	I	I
5	...	7	15	8	8	19	11	5	8	7	12	13	6	15	12	11	12	I	...	5	4
...	...	4	3	I	6	10	10	...	I	I	8	5	6	10	7	...	2	I	...	3	...
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18	14	61	46	57	60	86	101	37	26	63	56	55	57	83	71	46	42	9	8	31	27
18	13	54	44	53	56	77	92	34	23	56	54	49	53	78	67	42	39	7	7	28	26
...	I	7	2	4	4	9	9	3	3	7	2	6	4	5	4	4	3	2	I	3	

